

FYI - IPCDN terminology

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INTERNET-DRAFT IPCDN Terms of Reference

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Upstream The set of frequencies used to send data from a subscriber to the headend.

Downstream The set of frequencies used to send data from a headend to a subscriber.

Subsplit A frequency allocation plan where 5-42 MHz is used for upstream data and 50+MHz is used for downstream data.

Midsplit A frequency allocation plan where 5-108 MHz is used for upstream data and 178+ is used for downstream data.

Cable Modem

Any device which modulates and demodulates digital data onto a CATV plant.

Headend Central distribution point for a CATV system. Video signals are received here from satellite (either co-located or remoted), frequency converted to the appropriate channels, combined with locally originate signals, and rebroadcast onto the HFC plant. For a CATV data system, the headend is the typical place to link between the HFC system and any external data networks.

Distribution HubA smaller or remote headend distribution point for a CATV system. Video signals are received here from another site (headend), and redistributed. Sometimes a small number of locally originated signals are added. Such signals might be city information channels, HFC cable modem signals or the like.

Optical Node

A device used to convert broadband RF (radio frequency, e.g. television signals) to/from a fiber optic signal.

Fiber Node

Also "Node". An optical node located in the outside plant distribution system which terminates the fiber based downstream signal as an electrical signal onto a coaxial RF cable. Each fiber node is defined to support a certain service area, either defined by number of homes passed, or total amplifier cascade (# of active amplifiers in the longest line from the node to the end of the line.)

Trunk Line

A CATV "backbone" coaxial cable. This runs from an Optical Node and through a specific neighborhood or serving area.

Branch Line Also "Feeder Cable". A coax cable which runs from a trunk line to a subscriber drop point.

M. StJohns

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Tap A passive device which divides the signal between the trunk or feeder lines and splits the signal into ports for subscriber drop access.

Drop A subscriber access point. From the tap to the home and the actual coax connection and wiring in the subscribers home.

Amplifier Amplifiers are used on coaxial segments of a CATV plant to restore signal levels lost due to attenuation through distance. Unfortunately amplifiers amplify noise as well as signal.

Channel A specific frequency allocation and bandwidth. Downstream channels used for television in the US are 6MHz wide (NTSC). International systems such as PAL and SECAM use 8Mhz wide channels.

CATV Originally Community Antenna Television. Now used to refer to any cable (coax/fiber) based system provision of television services.

Homes Passed The number of homes or offices potentially servicable by a cable system either on a per node or per system basis.

Telephony ReturnA variant of a cable data system where the return path from the subscriber cable modem goes via a dialup (or ISDN) connection instead of over an upstream channel.

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